

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00281 232157Z

14  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OES-03 OFA-01 EB-07 /081 W  
----- 003345

R 231943Z JAN 76  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8606

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 0281

POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJ: JEAN MARCHAND APPOINTED ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

REF: OTTAWA 4469

1. IN SURPRISE MOVE, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO JEAN MARCHAND WAS SWORN IN THURSDAY AS NEW MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, HIS SEVENTH JOB IN LIBERAL CABINETS SINCE 1965. THE APPOINTMENT AFFIRMS CONTINUED SEPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES PORTFOLIOS, ALTHOUGH FISHERIES MINISTER ROMEO LEBLANC HAD BEEN HOLDING BOTH JOBS SINCE JEANNE SAUVE MOVED FROM ENVIRONMENT TO COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TWO MONTHS AGO.

2. MARCHAND'S APPOINTMENT CONSIDERED SURPRISE BECAUSE REPORTS OF FAILING HEALTH AND ASSOCIATIONS WITH SCANDAL HAD LED SOME OBSERVERS TO BELIEVE HE WAS WINDING DOWN FEDERAL POLITICAL CAREER. AS TRANSPORT MINISTER TO LAST SEPTEMBER, HE HAD BEEN GRILLED BY OPPOSITION DURING AIR CANADA INQUIRY AND SUBSEQUENTLY HOSPITALIZED FOR HYPERTENSION. ALSO LAST AUTUMN, HE WAS CHARGED WITH LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT AND LOST DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00281 232157Z

ONE YEAR. MORE RECENTLY IN NOVEMBER HE WAS QUESTIONED BY

RCMP IN SKY SHOP INVESTIGATION AFTER INITIALLY CAUSING FUROR BY REFUSING COOPERATION BECAUSE OF PRESS LEAKS (SEE REFTEL). APPOINTMENT HAS ALREADY LED CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE JOE CLARK TO CHARGE THAT ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO IS QUOTE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE TREATED AS RETIREMENT HOME FOR WORN-OUT MINISTERS UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF COLORFUL AND CONTROVERSIAL MARCHAND SHOWS TRUDEAU'S STAUNCH LOYALTY TO OLD QUEBEC BUDDIES. APPOINTMENT DOES NOT UPGRADE PORTFOLIO, AND TRUDEAU HIMSELF TOLD REPORTERS CONCERNED WITH MARCHAND'S HEALTH THAT QUOTE ADMINISTRATIVELY, ENVIRONMENT IS A LESS HEAVY PORTFOLIO THAN TRANSPORT UNQUOTE. ONE ADVANTAGE OF MARCHAND, HOWEVER, MAY BE THAT AS LONG-TIME CLOSE AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF TRUDEAU HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE BETTER ACCESS TO PM THAN ANY PAST ENVIRONMENT MINISTER.

JOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, ENVIRONMENT, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976OTTAWA00281  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760027-0929  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760128/aaaaaxxt.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 OTTAWA 4469  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JEAN MARCHAND APPOINTED ENVIRONMENT MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA, (MARCHAND, JEAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006